18. Techno Economic feasibility used reeled Mulberry Silk for Handmade Carpets. Indian Institute of Craft Technology, Srinagar. (During 2008).

D. Sericulture

1. Conservation of Mo to Directorate of Textiles, in Similipal. Biospho Government of Orissa Mayurbhanj Distt. (Orissa).

2. Studies and Identification of pathogen infecting to silkworm: Institute of Microbial silkworm in Uttarakhand Technology) IMTECH, Chandigarh.

3. A study on Feasibility and Technology Development Refinement of Eri culture in TN, Prof. Dr. S. Jairaj Research Kerala Foundation, Chennai (TN)

4. Increasing the cocoon productivity in Western Zone of Tamil Nadu. Centre for Plant Protection Studies. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

5. Evaluation of the Nutritional Potential of Eri Silkworm Pupae. National Institute of Nutrition, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Hyderabad.

6. "Utilization of Eri Silkworm Pupae by extraction of surface waxes from pupae and pre-pupae" and "Utilization of Eri Silkworm Pupae by extraction of oil from pupae and pre-pupae". Indian institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR), Hyderabad.

7. Studies on contribution of women to sericulture in West Bengal. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (BCKV) Mohnapur, Nadia., West Bengal.

8. Mulberry sericulture based Intensive Integrated Farming System (IIFS) Research Farmers' Participatory Mode. S. Jayaraj Research Foundation (SJRF) and Farm and Rural Development Centre, Chennai.

9. Sustainable Sericultural Development through Integrated Nutrient, Pest and Disease Management in South India-Farmers' Participatory Mode. S. Jayaraj Research Foundation (SJRF) and Farm and Rural Development Centre, Chennai.

Relief package to tackle job loss in textile sector

2630. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide relief package to tackle job loss in textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the latest approximate job loss both in the organized and unorganized textile sector as a result of appreciation of the rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The relief package provided by the Government to alleviate the effects of the slowdown in exports includes:—

(i) Rate of refunds for textiles export products under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme of Duty Drawback Scheme have been increased;

(ii) Immediate refund of terminal Excise Duty has been ordered;

(iii) Concessional export credit with extended periodical coverage has been effected,

(iv) Refund of Service Tax in various sectors related to exports of goods, has been notified

(c) A Report of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) indicates that stagnation of exports in 2007-08 due to the unprecedented appreciation of the rupee, and the consequent downturn in textiles exports will lead to a loss of around 5.79 lakh potential new jobs. The loss in direct employment in the textiles and clothing industry will be to the tune of 2.72 lakh jobs The report of the CITI has not quantified any job loss that may have already occurred

Handloom weavers working as daily wagers

2631. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that handloom weavers of Varanasi and adjoining areas as per the latest report are leaving their profession and working as daily wages in different cities;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any estimate of weavers having left their profession and number of those living in distressed conditions,

(c) with the latest announcement of financial support to weavers in the budget, how many of them will be benefited;

(d) whether Government will approach the weavers who have left the profession to start up again and provide them long term interest free loans; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received from the State Government As per the information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are about 2.00 lakh weavers/ workers in Varanasi, out of which about 1.00 lakh weavers are engaged in weaving while remaining are engaged in allied activities.

(c) It is expected to benefit about 1.00 lakh weavers by taking 2 mega handloom clusters

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

MSP for mulberry, multivoltine and bivoltine cocoons

2632. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh to introduce Minimum Support Price for the mulberry cocoons and fix Rs 100 - per kg. for multivoltine cocoons and Rs. 1.50 per kg. for bivoltine cocoons;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard,

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?